

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 and 10, without prejudice, and amend claims 2-4, 6, 11-13, and 15-16 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim ~~11~~, wherein said insulating solid piece is made of any of silicon dioxide, silicon nitride, alumina, glass and resin.

3. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim ~~11~~, wherein said first and second stable electrode walls extend in parallel with each other.

4. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim ~~11~~, wherein said movable electrode is a frame member surrounding the first and second stable electrode walls.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim ~~11~~, wherein the first and second stable electrode walls is fixed to the base substrate with the insulating layers respectively.

7-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) ~~The electrostatic actuator according to claim 10 An~~
electrostatic actuator comprising:

a movable electrode disposed for relative displacement along a basement plane
and defining first and second opposed surfaces opposed to each other, said movable electrode
having a thickness W;

a first stable electrode column standing on a base substrate and including a
bottom surface opposed to the base substrate;

a second stable electrode column standing on the base substrate at a location
spaced from the first stable electrode, and including a bottom surface opposed to the base
substrate;

a first stable electrode wall connected to the first stable electrode column and
extending between the first and second stable electrode columns, said first stable electrode
wall having a thickness W and being opposed to the first opposed surface of the movable
electrode;

a second stable electrode wall connected to the second stable electrode column
and extending between the first and second stable electrode columns, said second stable
electrode wall having a thickness W and being opposed to the second opposed surface of the
movable electrode;

an insulating solid piece connecting the first and second stable electrode walls;
and

insulating layers interposed between the bottom surface of the first stable electrode column and the base substrate and between the bottom surface of the second stable electrode column and the base substrate,

wherein the first and second stable electrode columns are located in a space between first and second datum planes, the first datum plane is defined to include an outward surface of the first stable electrode wall, the second datum plane is defined to include an outward surface of the second stable electrode wall, and a distance between the first and second datum planes is equal to or larger than three times the thickness W of the movable electrode.

12. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 11,
wherein each of the bottom surfaces of the first and second stable electrode columns is formed into a quadrate shape, four sides of the quadrate shape having a length equal to or larger than a length $3W$.

13. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 11,
wherein each of the bottom surfaces of the first and second stable electrode columns has an area that is larger than $9W^2$.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 11, further comprising:

a conductive wiring pattern extending on the base substrate;
a first electrically conductive piece interposed between the conductive wiring pattern and the bottom surface of the first stable electrode column, the first electrically conductive piece being surrounded by one of the insulating layers; and
a second electrically conductive piece interposed between the conductive wiring pattern and the bottom surface of the second stable electrode column, the second electrically conductive piece being surrounded by another one of the insulating layers.

16. (Currently amended) An electrostatic actuator comprising:

a movable electrode disposed for relative displacement along a basement plane, said movable electrode having a thickness W;
~~at least one stable electrode~~ a pair of stable electrodes standing on a base substrate ~~and, each of the stable electrodes~~ including an electrode column and an electrode wall connected to the electrode column, ~~the electrode column including a bottom surface opposed to the base substrate~~, the electrode wall having a wall surface opposed to the movable electrode ; and

an insulating layer interposed between the ~~bottom surface of the electrode column pair of stable electrodes~~ and the base substrate, a corrosion vestige retracting inward from a contour of the bottom surface in an amount of $W/2$ being formed on the insulating layer

wherein the electrode columns of the stable electrodes are located in a space between first and second datum planes, the first datum plane is defined to include an outward surface of one of the stable electrode walls, the second datum plane is defined to include an outward surface of another stable electrode wall, and a distance between the first and second datum planes is equal to or larger than three times the thickness W of the movable electrode.